

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 OFA-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 IO-10 L-02 NSF-01

NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03 OES-03 SS-15 SP-02 INT-05 /082 W

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R 112138Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6136

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E.O. 1162: N/A

TAGS: SENV, US, CA

SUBJECT: MORRISBURG REFINERY

REF: STATE 76410

1. EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED SUBJECT REFINERY WITH ENVIRONMENT CANADA OFFICIAL AND HAS INQUIRED IN WRITING FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING PLANS. FOLLOWING INFORMATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED ORALLY WITH UNDERSTANDING WRITTEN REPLY FORTHCOMING.

2. PETROMASS OF FRIENDSWOOD, TEXAS PREPARED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF PROJECT UNDER CONTRACT FROM IDA OIL BARGE COMPANY OF TEXAS WHO WILL BUILD REFINERY. THIS ASSESSMENT WAS SUBMITTED TO ONTARIO ENVIRONMENT OFFICIALS WHO APPROVED ITS CONCLUSIONS THAT NO PARTICULAR ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE WILL RESULT FROM PLANT. IT IS SMALL ONE (10,000 BARREL-PER-DAY CAPACITY) AND WILL PRODUCE JP-4 AND HEATING OIL FOR THE LOCAL MARKET. ONTARIO HAS REQUIRED THAT PROCESSED WATER MUST GO THROUGH THE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT BEFORE DISCHARGE. THE CRUDE WILL ENTER BY BARGE UNTIL SARNIA-MONTREAL PIPELINE IS BUILT. IT WILL MEET ALL ONTARIO CLEAN-AIR AND FISHING ACT REQUIREMENTS. PUBLIC HEARINGS

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ARE TO BE HELD NEXT WEEK IN MORRISBURG.

3. MEANWHILE,LOCAL PRESS HAS FOLLOWED UP WITH SECOND ARTICLE ON PROJECT WHICH WOULD INDICATE SOME IN LOCAL COMMUNITY NOT HAPPY WITH PROJECT. THESE HAVE FORMED A DELEGATION DEMANDING MORE INFORMATION ON THE REFINERY (PRESUMABLY, THIS IS THE REASON FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING), AND HAVE NOT BEEN SATISFIED THAT REFINERY WILL NOT BE AN EYESORE, NOR MALODOROUS, NOR STRAIN THE CAPACITY OF THE LOCAL SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES.

4. COMMENT: WHILE IT SEEMS AS IF THE PROJECT WILL NOT HAVE DELETERIOUS EFFECT UPON THE US BASED ON STATEMENTS ABOVE, EMBASSY WOULD SUGGEST THAT APPROPRIATE EXPERT FROM EPA ATTEMPT TO ATTEND HEARINGS IN MORRISBURG. ENVIRONMENT OFFICIALS WERE NOT SURE WHEN EXACTLY THE HEARINGS WOULD BE NEXT WEEK, BUT EMBASSY CAN ASCERTAIN DETAILS IF EPA PREPARED ATTEND.

5. EMBASSY ALSO NOTES THAT PIPELINE IS AT LEAST A FEW YEARS AWAY. IT PRESUMES OIL BARGES WILL BE COMING UP THE ST LAWRENCE FOR SOME TIME TO COME AND WILL HAVE TO ENTER US WATERS AS THEY PROCEED UP THE RIVER. HOWEVER, EMBASSY CANNOT JUDGE WHETHER THIS POSES ANY PROBLEMS AND SUGGEST THAT POINT IN PARTICULAR BEARS WATCHING.
PORTER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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